

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An inductor component [,] comprising:

a magnetic core comprising at least one gap;

5 an excitation coil disposed on said magnetic core so as to form a magnetic path on said magnetic core; and

at least one permanent ~~magnets~~ magnet disposed near said at least one of ~~said gaps~~ gap; wherein ~~said permanent magnet is disposed across from a~~

10 at least one first soft magnetic material piece disposed between said at least one permanent magnet and said magnetic core;

15 wherein said at least one first soft magnetic material piece is formed of a soft magnetic material which has a smaller permeability and less eddy current loss than said magnetic core;

wherein said at least one permanent magnet has a natural coercive force of at least 10 kOe (79kA/m) and a Tc of at least 500°C; and

20 wherein said magnetic core comprises a magnetic material selected from the group consisting of silicone steel, amorphous material, Ni-Fe alloy, MnZn ferrite and NiZn ferrite.

2. (Currently Amended) An inductor component according to claim 1, wherein:

~~one edge face of said permanent magnets is joined each to both side faces at the end forming at least one gap of said magnetic core with said first soft magnetic material piece introduced therebetween, and further~~

said at least one permanent magnet comprises at least one pair of permanent magnets;

said at least one first soft magnetic material piece comprises at least one pair of first soft magnetic material pieces;

each of said pair of permanent magnets is positioned on a respective side face of said magnetic core near said at least one gap with a respective one of said pair of first soft magnetic pieces disposed therebetween; and

~~wherein between other edge outer faces of said both pair of permanent magnets are connected by a second soft magnetic material piece formed of a soft magnetic material which has smaller permeability and less eddy current loss than said magnetic core.~~

3. (Currently Amended) An inductor component according to claim 1, wherein ~~said gap is formed of one magnetic core is U-shaped magnetic core.~~

4. (Currently Amended) An inductor component according to claim 1, wherein said magnetic core comprises a plurality of ~~said gaps are formed~~ between a pair of magnetic cores.

5. (Currently Amended) An inductor component according to claim 4, wherein said pair of magnetic cores comprises two C-type cores, and said plurality of gaps are formed ~~on each at~~ abutting edge face faces of said C-type cores.

6. (Currently Amended) An inductor component according to claim 1, wherein said inductor component is used adapted for use ~~as~~ a choke coil.

7. (New) An inductor component comprising:
a magnetic core comprising at least one gap;
an excitation coil disposed on said magnetic core so as to form a magnetic path on said magnetic core;
5 at least one pair of permanent magnets, each said permanent magnet being positioned at a respective side face of said magnetic core near said at least one gap;
at least one pair of first soft magnetic material pieces, each said first soft magnetic material piece being disposed
10 between a respective one of said permanent magnets and said magnetic core; and

at least one second soft magnetic material piece connecting outer faces of said at least one pair of permanent magnets;

wherein said at least one pair of first soft magnetic material pieces and said at least one second soft magnetic material piece are formed of a soft magnetic material which has smaller permeability and less eddy current loss than said magnetic core.

8. (New) An inductor component according to claim 7, wherein;

said at least one pair of permanent magnets comprises a first pair of permanent magnets disposed on a first side face of said magnetic core near said at least one gap, and a second pair of permanent magnets disposed on a second side face of said magnetic core near said at least one gap;

said at least one pair of first soft magnetic material pieces comprises a first pair of first soft magnetic material pieces disposed between said first pair of permanent magnets and said magnetic core, and a second pair of first soft magnetic material pieces disposed between said second pair of permanent magnets and said magnetic core; and

said at least one second soft magnetic material piece comprises a first second soft magnetic material piece connecting

outer faces of said first pair of permanent magnets, and a second second soft magnetic material piece connecting outer faces of said second pair of permanent magnets.

9. (New) An inductor component according to claim 7,
wherein said magnetic core is U-shaped.

10. (New) An inductor component according to claim 7,
wherein said magnetic core comprises a pair of magnetic cores.

11. (New) An inductor component according to claim 10,
wherein said pair of magnetic cores comprises two C-type cores,
and said plurality of gaps are formed at abutting edge faces of
said C-type cores.

12. (New) An inductor component according to claim 7,
wherein said inductor component is adapted for use as a choke
coil.